

Notice of Funding Opportunity

EXPANSION Family Place Library Grant Program Guidelines

Application Due Date: Friday, December 13, 2019

Library Development & Networking Division
September 2019

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**Comments regarding the programs and services of the
Texas State Library and Archives Commission can be addressed to:
Director and Librarian
P. O. Box 12927 ♦ Austin, Texas 78711-2927
512-463-5460 ♦ 512-463-5436 fax**

A. Program Description

The Family Place Libraries Training Institute provides theoretical grounding and practical training in family-centered library services. By expanding the traditional role of children's services, the Family Place Libraries Project helps Project participants build on the knowledge that good health, early learning, parental involvement and supportive communities play a critical role in young children's growth and development.

Family Place Libraries Project participants will be able to create the network families need to nurture their children's development during the critical first years of life. The Project provides training and resources to help participants redesign their library environment to:

- Create a welcoming and developmentally appropriate environment for children beginning at birth.
- Connect parents with the resources, programs and services offered at the library and other family service agencies.
- Connect with non-traditional library users.
- Ensure children have access to resources that will allow them to enter school ready and able to learn.

Requirements

Require one staff member to dedicate approximately 25% staff time to the development and maintenance of the space for a period of three years

Before the in-person training, participants will:

1. Book and pay for transportation costs to send one (1) qualified staff member to Centereach, New York for Family Place training. (The Tocker Foundation may reimburse expenses for libraries in communities serving populations under 12,000.)
2. Notify TSLAC as soon as possible if selected staff member is unavailable to attend the training or becomes ineligible to attend (e.g., accepts a different position within the library or leaves employment at the library), and request approval for a different qualified staff member to attend.
3. Complete online courses provided by Family Place prior to attending the onsite training.
4. Execute a contract with TSLAC to receive up to \$6,000 in reimbursed funds to develop the Family Place Program. The contract must be executed by an official of the library's governing authority authorized to enter into this agreement. The executed contract must be returned to TSLAC prior to the commencement of training.

Post Training-Within Six (6) Months, participants will:

1. Encumber the \$6000 for items recommended during the training by July 31, 2020.
2. Report on expenditures in accordance with the requirements and timeline provided by TSLAC.
3. Develop a Family Place Libraries Plan for the library.
4. Create and maintain a family friendly, interactive public space within the Children's area of the library in accordance with information provided during the training.
5. Develop a Parenting Collection in or adjacent to the library's Children's area.
6. Provide in-house staff orientation about Family Place Libraries.

Post Training-Within One (1) Year, participants will:

1. Develop coalitions/partnerships with community agencies as described during the training.
2. Plan, advertise, and implement a minimum of one, five (5) week session, 1 hour per week, of the Parent/Child Workshop, as described during the training.

Post Training: Three (3) Years, participants will:

1. Annually implement two five (5) week sessions, 1 hour per week, of the Parent/Child Workshop, during the second and third year after the training.
2. Engage in support and consulting provided by staff from the Middle Country Public Library.

3. Work with Middle Country Public Library to coordinate a site visit approximately 18 months after the training.
4. Maintain documentation regarding implementation of your Family Place Plan and report annual statistics related to the Parent Child Workshop, Early Childhood Programs, Space Usage, Collaborations and Outreach Efforts, as required by the Middle Country Public Library.
5. Complete all required State and Family Place Evaluations and Progress Reports about your Family Place Library.
6. Replace and refresh the materials and resources in the early learning center, as needed.
7. Train additional staff as needed to sustain the program in the event of a staff member leaving.

B. Award Information

Approximately \$114,000.00 is expected to be available for the Family Place grants, subject to approval by the TSLAC governing board and the availability of funds.

Up to eleven Libraries chosen to participate in the Texas State Library and Archives Commission-sponsored Family Place Libraries Project will receive the following:

- Paid tuition for one (1), full- time staff member from the participating library to attend Family Place Library training.
- A one time, state-funded sub-award up to \$6,000 to establish a family space and learning environment in the Library as outlined in the Family Place Libraries Project training. Funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis.
- Length of Funding: This one time, state funded sub-grant in the amount of \$6,000 must be encumbered between Feb. 24, 2019 and July 31, 2020.

C. Eligibility Information

Eligibility for the TSLAC-sponsored Family Place Libraries Project requires the following:

- Through their governing authority, accredited public libraries are eligible to apply for funds. Public library applicants must be accredited by the TSLAC for the fiscal year in which the training is held and when the grant is implemented.
- There is no requirement for cost sharing, matching funds or cost participation with this grant program.

D. Application and Submission Information

Application Assistance

Texas State Library and Archives Commission staff is available to help throughout the application process. Contact **Bethany Wilson, Youth Services Coordinator at 800-252-9386 or 512-463-4856**, or by e-mail at bwilson@tsl.texas.gov for assistance with the application.

Grant Management System (GMS) Access

TSLAC uses a grant management system (GMS) that enables applicants to apply for grants electronically through a web portal at <https://grants.tsl.texas.gov>. Applications and required documents must be submitted in GMS by the due date in order to be eligible for consideration.

To submit your application online, you must have an active GMS account. To create or activate an account, please have your director send an email requesting access with your name and contact information to grants@tsl.texas.gov. The email should reference "GMS Access" in the subject line. TSLAC staff will review the request and grant appropriate access.

Applicants may request paper copies of materials if necessary due to difficulty using the Internet or other accessibility reasons from Bethany Wilson, Youth Services Coordinator, at 1-800 252-9386 or 512-463-4856, via email at bwilson@tsl.texas.gov.

Application Components

The grant application consists of the following components to be **submitted in GMS** (unless noted):

1. Proposal narrative.
2. Application certification form signed by a governing authority. Print out from GMS, get signatures, then upload in GMS.

Other requirements

Before submitting an application, the applicant organization must have a current and active D-U-N-S Number and SAM.gov (System for Award Management) registration. Check your materials and registrations well in advance of the application deadline to ensure that they are accurate, current and active.

If your D-U-N-S and SAM registrations are not active and current at the time of submission, your proposal will be rejected; if they are not active and current at the time of an award, your proposal cannot be funded.

Information on how to obtain a D-U-N-S number may be found on Dun & Bradstreet's website (fedgov.dnb.com/webform) or by calling Dun & Bradstreet, toll-free, at 866-705-5711. Information regarding SAM registration may be found at www.sam.gov. Obtaining a D-U-N-S number and registering in SAM.gov is free.

Who can sign the application?

Any individual authorized to use GMS and having the correct security role will be able to submit the application in GMS. Applicants will still be required to submit the signed application certification in GMS. The application certification must be signed by an individual authorized to enter into contracts with the State of Texas (e.g., county judge, city manager, etc.).

Deadline and Submission

The completed application and *all* required documents must be submitted to TSLAC by **11:59 p.m. Central Time, Friday, December 13, 2019**.

Late submissions may be considered for review on a case-by-case basis following the TSLAC protest procedures as outlined in Section F (13 TAC §2.55) and decision by the Director and Librarian

Program Timeline

October 7, 2019	Guidelines released
November 1, 2019	Application Opens
December 13, 2019	Application Deadline
February 24, 2019	Grants awarded
Spring 2021	First performance report due
Spring 2022	Second performance report due
Fall 2022	Projects end
Spring 2023	Final performance report due

E. Application Review Information

Criteria for Award

Acceptance into the training program is competitive. The Review Panel will score proposals on the criteria listed below. A completed grant application must be submitted for review. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Grant applications will be evaluated on the criteria listed below. The maximum number of points for each category is listed.

The detailed scoring rubric that will be used by the Family Place Review Panel is provided on the following pages.

1. Needs Assessment (50 points)

- Provide details about the community you serve, both library users and non-users. Describe the population and demographics in your service area.
- Provide details about any unique needs your library is meeting or striving to meet for the community.
- Describe the library mission statement and any specific goals you have for your library pertaining to the development of young children. Be specific about how participation in the Family Place Libraries program will equip you to support your mission and meet those goals.

2. Sustainability (50 points)

- Describe your current programs, services, and library space for young children in detail.
- Describe the support you have from within your organization for these programs as well as any outside support that you have for these programs from local partners and community members.
- Provide information about how you will measure successful outcomes within your Family Place Library. How will you use those outcomes to petition for continued financial support of the program?
- Provide information about potential partnerships and/or funding sources that could be utilized for continued support of your Family Place Library.

Scoring Rubric

<p>Project Scoring Total in Two Areas: 100 points</p> <p>The specific needs of each library and their community as well as their ability to sustain the program through the three-year grant period and beyond will be considered in the evaluation of all criteria. Each criterion may be scored as follows:</p> <p>0-10 points: Project does not meet the goals and purposes of the Family Place Libraries grant program. 20-30 points: Project partially meets the goals and purposes of the Family Place Libraries grant program. 40-50 points: Project is a clear fit for the goals and purposes of the Family Place Libraries grant program.</p>
<p>1. Needs Assessment</p> <p>The purpose of this grant is to create a welcoming, family-centered environment that empowers caregivers of young children as they become their child's first teachers. This grant will provide funding for the equipment and training necessary for each library to: host workshops for children 0-3 and their caregivers, develop an interactive space for this age group to play and learn in the library, and forge strong partnerships with community organizations serving young children and their families.</p> <p>Applicant demonstrates ways in which the program aligns with mission and strategic plan for the library. Applicant describes audience demographics, population and unique need. Applicant describes</p>

how the Family Place training and provided funding will allow better service of community need.		
0-10 points	20-30 points	40-50 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant provides no information on program alignment with library mission. • Applicant provides no demographics information. • Applicant provides no information on community need. • Applicant provides no links between library mission/goals and Family Place. • Applicant branch is less than 10 miles from established Family Place location in library system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant provides some information on program alignment with library mission with a few details. • Applicant provides some demographic information for community. • Applicant touches on community need with no/few specific details. • Applicant lists current programs for children with few/no details. • Applicant references library mission and Family Place alignment but provides no details. • Applicant branch is 10-20 miles from established Family Place location in library system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant provides clear and convincing evidence of program alignment with library mission. • Applicant provides detailed demographics for community. • Applicant provides detailed examples of ways in which the program will meet community need. • Applicant provides details and examples of current programs for children. • Applicant frequently links library mission/goals with Family Place goals using examples and details. • Applicant branch is over 20 miles from established Family Place location in library system.
2. Sustainability		
<p>Applicant provides evidence of ability to implement the program and continue to sustain it at conclusion of the funding period. Applicant provides examples of current programs, services, and describes library space for children. Applicant can demonstrate support from organizational leadership, local partners, and community members for library development and programming. Applicant provides information on potential partnerships and/or funding sources for continued development of the program. Applicant outlines plan for measurement of outcomes.</p>		
0-10 points	20-30 points	40-50 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant provides no detail about current programs and services for children. • Applicant provides no information about community partners to support Family Place initiatives. • Applicant provides no information or detail about organizational support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant provides some information about current children’s programming with no specific examples. • Applicant provides information on potential partners that could support Family Place initiatives. • Applicant mentions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant provides information about current children’s programming and services with details and examples. • Applicant describes relationships with partners willing to support Family Place initiatives. • Applicant describes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant provides no information or detail about community support. • Applicant has no plan for measurement of outcomes. • Applicant has no financial sustainability plan. 	<p>organizational support with some details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant mentions community support with some details. • Applicant provides ideas on how they might measure outcomes. • Applicant provides ideas on where they might look for financial support. 	<p>organizational support with detailed examples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant describes community support with detailed examples. • Applicant has detailed plan for measurement of outcomes. • Applicant demonstrates financial support through established relationships.
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Funding Decisions (13 TAC §2.114)

- The agency staff will submit a recommended priority-ranked list of applicants for possible funding. Final approval of a grant award is solely at the determination of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.
- Applications for grant funding will be evaluated only upon the information provided in the written application.
- The agency staff may negotiate with selected applicants to determine the terms of the award. To receive an award, the applicant must accept any additional or special terms and conditions listed in the grant contract and any changes in the grant application.
- The agency staff will notify unsuccessful applicants in writing.

Awarding of Grants (13 TAC §2.115)

The TSLAC governing board has the right to reject applications or cancel or modify a grant solicitation at any point before a contract is signed. The award of any grant is subject to the availability of funds.

TSLAC Staff Responsibility (13 TAC §2.117)

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) staff will review each application packet for the following:

- Legal eligibility of the institution to participate in this grant program and appropriate authorizing signature
- Conformance to the federal and state regulations pertaining to grants
- Submission of all required forms
- Compliance with submission procedures and deadlines

Applications with significant errors, omissions, or eligibility issues will not be rated. Agency staff will be available to offer technical assistance to reviewers.

Decision Making Process (13 TAC §2.118)

To be considered eligible for funding by the commission, any application must receive a minimum adjusted mean score of more than 60 percent of the maximum points available. To reduce the impact of scores that are exceedingly high or low, or otherwise outside the range of scores from other reviewers, agency staff will tabulate the panel's work using calculations such as an adjusted mean score.

- Applications will be ranked in priority order by score for consideration by the commission.
- If insufficient funds remain to fully fund the next application, the staff will negotiate a reduced grant with the next ranked applicant. (*Not applicable to this grant opportunity*)
- If the panel recommends funding an application that, for legal, fiscal, or other reasons, is unacceptable to the staff, a contrary recommendation will be made. The applicant will be informed of this situation prior to presentation to the commission and may negotiate a revision to the application. A positive recommendation to the commission will be contingent upon successfully completing these negotiations prior to the commission meeting.
- If the panel is unable to produce a set of recommendations for funding, the agency staff will use the same evaluation procedures to develop recommendations to the commission.

F. Award Administration Information

Notice of Award

Applicants will be notified of the funding decisions via e-mail. The notification will include an award letter and protest procedures, which are also included in this notice. Once the awards have been awarded, successful applicants will receive instructions on how to proceed.

Protest Procedure — Texas State Library and Archives Commission, 13 TAC §2.55

(a) An aggrieved person who is not satisfied with a decision, procedure, or service received from the staff of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission or who is an actual or prospective bidder, grantee, or contractor aggrieved in connection with a solicitation, evaluation, or award may file a protest with the Director and Librarian in accordance with this rule.

(b) A protest must be submitted to the Director and Librarian within 21 days after the person knows or should have known of the matter which is protested. The Director and Librarian has the discretion to allow a protest filed after 21 days if the protestant shows good cause for the late filing or if the protest raises an issue significant to the general policies and procedures of the commission.

(c) The protestant shall mail or deliver a copy of the protest to all interested persons. The Director and Librarian will furnish a list of interested persons to a protestant. For protests of a competitive selection (bid, contract, or grant), interested persons shall include all persons who have submitted a bid, proposal, or application.

(d) A protest must be in writing and identified as a protest under this section, and contain the following:

(1) A description of the protestant's interest in the matter

(2) The issue(s) to be resolved and remedy(s) requested

(3) The protestant's argument supporting the protest, including a statement of relevant facts and applicable law, specifying the statutes, rules, or other legal authority alleged to have been violated

(4) The protestant's affirmation that facts set forth in the protest are true

(5) A certification that a copy of the protest has been mailed or delivered to all interested persons

(e) Upon receipt of a protest conforming to the requirements of this section, the commission shall not proceed with the solicitation, award, or contract until the protest is resolved, unless the Director and Librarian makes a written determination that delay would harm the substantial interests of the state.

(f) The Director and Librarian has the authority to decide, settle, or resolve the protest and will make a written determination. The Director and Librarian may solicit written responses to the protest from other parties. The Director and Librarian shall inform the protesting party and other interested parties by letter of his determination, and how to appeal the determination to the commission.

(g) An interested party may appeal the determination of the Director and Librarian. An appeal must be in writing and conform to paragraphs (1) - (3) of this subsection:

(1) The appeal must be received in the office of the Director and Librarian no later than 15 days after the date the determination is mailed to interested parties;

(2) A copy of the appeal must be mailed or delivered by the appealing party to all interested parties and contain a certification of mailing or delivery;

(3) The appealing party must state whether or not an opportunity is requested to make an oral presentation to the commission in open meeting.

(h) The Director and Librarian shall refer the matter to the commission for their consideration at an open meeting.

(i) The chair of the commission has the discretion to allow an appeal filed more than 15 days after the Director and Librarian's determination if the appealing party shows good cause for the late filing or if the appeal raises an issue significant to the general policies or procedures of the commission.

(j) An interested party may file a response to an appeal of the determination of the Director and Librarian no later than seven days after the appeal is mailed or delivered.

(k) Copies of the appeal and responses of interested parties, if any, shall be mailed to the commission by the Director and Librarian.

(l) The chair of the commission has the discretion to decide whether or not a request for oral presentations will be granted and will set the order and amount of time for oral presentations that are allowed. The chair also has the discretion to decide whether presentations and written documents presented by Commission staff and interested parties will be allowed.

(m) The commission will determine properly filed appeals and make its decision in open meeting. The commission shall vote to uphold or reverse the decision of the Director and Librarian. Failing a majority vote of a quorum of the

commission, the Director and Librarian's decision is upheld. The commission's decision is final and not subject to judicial review under the statutes governing the commission.

(n) A decision issued either by the commission in open meeting or in writing by the Director and Librarian shall be the final administrative action of the commission.

(o) Documentation concerning a protest of a competitive selection is part of the commission's records series for that selection and is retained in accordance with the commission's approved records retention schedule.

Policy Requirements

TSLAC competitive grant recipients are subject to the State of Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards (UGMS) (<https://www.comptroller.texas.gov/purchasing/docs/ugms.pdf>) and federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (also known as the Supercircular). (<https://federalregister.gov/a/2013-30465>).

Reporting

Grantees must submit a financial report at the conclusion of the current fiscal year and performance reports annually through the life of the grant. This will be outlined further in the grant contract. Reports will be submitted electronically through TSLAC's Grant Management System (GMS).

G. Contacts

TSLAC staff members are available during regular business hours (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Central Standard Time) to assist with grants.

Bethany Wilson, Youth Services Consultant, Program Coordinator

Phone: 512-463-4856, 800-252-9386 (toll free)

Fax: 512-936-2306

Email: bwilson@tsl.texas.gov